



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
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MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
July 16, 2003**

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

DERRY MAN ARRAIGNED ON FEDERAL "CRACK" DISTRIBUTION CHARGES

Re: United States v. Ronald DESIR

Concord, New Hampshire -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed announced that RONALD DESIR, DOB 10/29/64, of Haverhill, MA and Derry, NH, was arraigned on July 16, 2003, on a four-count "crack" cocaine distribution indictment.

On June 5, 2003, a federal grand jury returned a four-count indictment against DESIR, also known as "Ronald Williams," charging him with Possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, also known as "crack," and Attempted possession with intent to distribute "crack" during January, 2003. An affidavit filed with a Criminal Complaint against DESIR alleges that he repeatedly sold crack cocaine to an undercover informant in Derry during that period.

DESIR appeared in the U.S. District Court in Concord before U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead, who detained him without bail pending trial on September 3, 2003.

DESIR faces up to life imprisonment, and a mandatory minimum 10-year term of imprisonment if convicted of the charges set forth in the indictment.

The arrest resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the DEA's Northern New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force and the N.H. Attorney General's Drug Task Force.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").

A INDICTMENT IS ONLY AN ALLEGATION AND NOT PROOF OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT. AS IN ALL CRIMINAL CASES, EACH DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT.

